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9 each POS terminal unit is not provided with any
10 POS system execution program, and has at least a
11 transmission data generating function and a communication
12 function for data exchange with the host unit.

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1 9. (AMENDED) A POS system comprising a host unit and a
2 plurality of POS terminal units connected thereto via a
3 predetermined communication line for data transfer/receipt
4 between each POS terminal unit and the host unit, wherein:

5 execution programs of the POS system are stored
6 in the host unit;

7 each POS terminal unit is not provided with any
8 POS system execution program, and has at least a
9 transmission data generating function and a communication
10 function for data exchange with the host unit; and

11 execution programs of the POS system are updated
12 only at the host.

1 10. (AMENDED) A POS system comprising a host unit and a
2 plurality of different POS units connected via
3 predetermined communication line thereto and operable in
4 POS systems for different kinds of services, wherein:

5 POS system execution programs for the different
6 kinds of services are collectively stored in the host unit;

7 each POS unit is not provided with any
8 corresponding system execution program, and has at least a
9 transmission data generating function and a communication
10 function for data exchange with the host unit; and

11 a maintenance system for the maintenance of the
12 plurality of the POS systems for the different kinds of
13 services is provided only in the host unit.

1 13. (AMENDED) A system for effecting point of sale
2 functions, the system comprising:
3 a) a host, the host including means for storing all
4 programs related to execution of the point of sale
5 system, and means for storing all programs related to
6 maintaining the point of sale system;
7 b) at least two point of sale terminals, each of the
8 at least two point of sale terminals having
9 i) means for generating transmission data, and
10 ii) means for exchanging data with the host; and
11 c) communication means coupled with the host and each
12 of the at least two point of sale terminals, and
13 facilitating communications between the host and each
14 of the at least two point of sale terminals.

✓ Please cancel claims 2, 11 and 12 without
prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited
therein.

Please add the following new claims:

1 -- 16. (NEW) The POS system of claim 1 wherein at least
one of the plurality of POS terminal units includes a voice
input.

17. (NEW) The POS system of claim 9 wherein at least one
of the plurality of POS terminal units includes a voice
input.

18. (NEW) The POS system of claim 10 wherein at least one
of the plurality of POS terminal units includes a voice
input.

19. (NEW) The system of claim 13 wherein each of the at least two point of sale terminals includes a voice input.

20. (NEW) The POS system of claim 1 wherein at least one of the plurality of POS terminal units includes a display and a printer.

21. (NEW) The POS system of claim 9 wherein at least one of the plurality of POS terminal units includes a display and a printer.

22. (NEW) The POS system of claim 10 wherein at least one of the plurality of POS terminal units includes a display and a printer.

23. (NEW) The system of claim 13 wherein each of the at least two point of sale terminals further includes a display and a printer.

24. (NEW) Apparatus for use in a system including a bank-related¹³⁰ system for executing settling processes based on sales data and a credit-related system for executing settling processes based on sales data, the apparatus comprising:

- a) a host unit;¹⁰⁰
- b) a shop-side POS terminal unit for generating the sales data;¹¹⁰
- c) a maintenance center;¹⁵⁰ and
- d) data transfer lines connecting the host unit to each of the shop-side POS terminal unit, the

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bank-related system, the credit-related system, and
the maintenance center,

wherein the sales data used by the bank-related
system and credit-related system are provided from the
shop-side POS terminal unit, and

wherein programs for executing processes on the
shop-side POS terminal unit for a plurality of different
kinds of services are stored on the host unit.--

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(ii), a
separate sheet(s) with the rewritten claims marked-up to
show the changes made to the previous version of the
claims, is filed herewith.

REMARKS

In view of the foregoing amendments and the
following remarks, the applicant respectfully submits that
the pending claims are not anticipated under 35 U.S.C.
§ 102 and are not unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103.
Accordingly, it is believed that this application is in
condition for allowance. If, however, the Examiner
believes that there are any unresolved issues, or believes
that some or all of the claims are not in condition for
allowance, the applicant respectfully requests that the
Examiner contact the undersigned to schedule a telephone
Examiner Interview before any further actions on the
merits.

The applicant will now address each of the issues
raised in the outstanding Office Action.